

The Transportation Security
Administration (TSA), an agency
within the U.S. Department of
Homeland Security, has
launched the Registered Traveler
pilot program in partnership
with selected airlines and
airports across the country.

The Registered Traveler pilot program is designed to improve the security screening process by helping TSA align screeners and resources with potential risks. Approved travelers will be positively identified at the airport through biometric technology. These passengers will go through expedited security screening at specially designated lanes in their home airports.





Better Service and Secure Travel: The Benefits of the Registered Traveler Pilot Program

A primary purpose of the pilot program is to assess the actual benefits of a Registered Traveler program. Benefits may vary according to location, as each airport will deploy different technologies and will have different security checkpoint configurations. However, TSA is confident that users will benefit in two major categories.

Customer Service: Registered Travelers may pass more quickly into secure areas, easing congestion at checkpoints and reducing the wait time for all passengers in line for screening.

Security: Since more is known about Registered Traveler users, TSA screeners will be able to focus their efforts more efficiently and effectively.

Who is participating in the Registered Traveler Pilot Program?

Qualified participants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent legal residents. The airlines participating in the pilot program will send out invitation letters to their frequent travelers to advise them of this opportunity. Participation in the Registered Traveler Pilot Program is completely voluntary.

How does the Registered Traveler Pilot Program Work?

The TSA will collect personal information including name, address, phone number, and date of birth from volunteers along with biometric data, including a fingerprint and/or an iris scan. A security assessment that will include analysis of law enforcement and intelligence data sources and a check of outstanding wants and warrants will also be conducted.

Once the program is operational at their home airports, volunteers will proceed to a checkpoint designated for Registered Travelers and provide their biometric information. After passing through the biometric kiosk, Registered Travelers will go through primary screening and will not be randomly selected for secondary screening. However, Registered Travelers who cause the walk-through metal detector to alarm will undergo additional screening. All rules regarding prohibited items will still apply.

Evaluation of the Registered Traveler Pilot Program

TSA will collect security, operational, customer service, and cost data, all of which will be analyzed at the conclusion of the Pilot Program. This data provides a platform for future development and allows TSA to evaluate new technologies.

Registered Traveler, What Next?

The results of the five-airport pilot program will determine future applications of the Registered Traveler concept at other domestic airports.

